

Claim Listing:

This Claim Listing reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

In brief, the present Claim Listing cancels claim 63 without prejudice, and amends claims 52–54, 62, 64, and 72, relative to applicant's Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, dated July 31, 2008.

1.–51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) A method of bone fixation, comprising:
selecting a bone plate including a wider head portion connected to a narrower body portion, the bone plate defining a long axis and a longitudinal slot, the longitudinal slot defining a long axis that is at least substantially parallel to extending along the long axis defined by the bone plate, the bone plate also defining a plurality of openings disposed in the head portion and further defining a transverse slot disposed generally between the longitudinal slot and the plurality of openings and extending transversely to the long axis; and

attaching the bone plate to at least one bone with fasteners received in the longitudinal slot, the plurality of openings, and the transverse slot,

wherein the bone plate has opposing inner and outer surfaces, wherein an opposing surface defines a plane, wherein the long axis defined by the longitudinal slot is included in a plane that is orthogonal to the plane defined by the opposing surface and that bisects the transverse slot.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of selecting a bone plate includes a step of selecting a bone plate including a transverse slot having opposing sides that each extend to opposing ends of the transverse slot, wherein the transverse slot [[that]] extends along a an arcuate path defined centrally between the opposing sides, and wherein an orthogonal projection of the path onto the plane defined by the opposing surface is arcuate.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of selecting a bone plate includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the plurality of openings are arrayed transversely to the long axis defined by the bone plate.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the longitudinal slot and the transverse slot are a first pair of slots, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the head portion defines a second pair of slots, and wherein the second pair of slots extend transversely to one another.

56. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the transverse slot has a length and a width, and wherein the length is about twice the width.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein the step of attaching the bone plate to at least one bone includes a step of attaching the bone plate to a distal portion of a radius bone.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising a step of selecting a bone having at least one discontinuity defining first and second portions of the bone, wherein the step of attaching includes (a) a step of placing a fastener into the first portion of the bone from the transverse slot, (b) a step of attaching the second portion of the bone to the bone plate using one or more fasteners received in one or more of the plurality of openings, (c) a step of adjusting an alignment of the first and second portions of the bone by relative movement of the bone plate and the first portion, the relative movement repositioning the fastener along the transverse slot while the bone plate is attached to the second portion of the bone, and (d) a step of fixing the alignment of the first and second portions of the bone using the bone plate after the step of adjusting.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, further comprising a step of attaching a handle to the bone plate.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the step of attaching a handle includes a step of disposing the handle in threaded engagement with the bone plate.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising a step of disconnecting the handle from the bone plate.

62. (Currently Amended) A method of bone fixation, comprising:
selecting a bone plate defining a long axis and a longitudinal slot, the longitudinal slot defining a long axis that is at least substantially parallel to extending along the long axis defined by the bone plate, the bone plate also defining a plurality of openings and further defining a transverse slot disposed generally between the longitudinal slot and the plurality of openings and extending transversely to the long axis along an arcuate path; and

attaching the bone plate to at least one bone with fasteners received in the longitudinal slot, the plurality of openings, and the transverse slot,

wherein the bone plate has opposing inner and outer surfaces, wherein an opposing surface defines a plane, wherein the long axis defined by the longitudinal slot is included in a plane that is orthogonal to the plane defined by the opposing surface and that bisects the transverse slot,

wherein the transverse slot has opposing sides that each extend to opposing ends of the transverse slot, wherein the transverse slot extends along a path defined centrally between the opposing sides, and wherein an orthogonal projection of the path onto the plane defined by the opposing surface is arcuate.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein the step of selecting a bone plate includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the plurality of openings are arrayed transversely to the long axis defined by the bone plate.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the longitudinal slot and the transverse slot are a first pair of slots, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate defining a second pair of slots, and wherein the second pair of slots extend transversely to one another.

66. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the transverse slot has a length and a width, and wherein the length is at least about twice the width.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the step of attaching the bone plate to at least one bone includes a step of attaching the bone plate to a distal portion of a radius bone.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising a step of selecting a bone having at least one discontinuity defining first and second portions of the bone, wherein the step of attaching includes (a) a step of placing a fastener into the first portion of the bone from the transverse slot, (b) a step of attaching the second portion of the bone to the bone plate using one or more fasteners received in one or more of the plurality of openings, (c) a step of adjusting an alignment of the first and second portions of the bone by relative movement of the bone plate and the first portion, the relative movement repositioning the fastener along the transverse slot while the bone plate is attached to the second portion of the bone, and (d) a step of fixing the alignment of the first and second portions of the bone using the bone plate after the step of adjusting.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising a step of attaching a handle to the bone plate.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the step of attaching a handle includes a step of disposing the handle in threaded engagement with the bone plate.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, further comprising a step of disconnecting the handle from the bone plate.

72. (Currently Amended) A method of bone fixation, comprising:

selecting a bone plate defining a long axis, ~~and a first opening, the bone plate also defining a first opening, a plurality of second openings, and further defining a transverse slot disposed generally between the first opening and the plurality of second openings and extending transversely to the long axis along an arcuate path;~~ and

attaching the bone plate to at least one bone with fasteners received in the first opening, the plurality of second openings, and the transverse slot,

wherein the bone plate has opposing inner and outer surfaces, wherein an opposing surface defines a plane, wherein the long axis defined by the longitudinal slot is included in a plane that is orthogonal to the plane defined by the opposing surface and that bisects the transverse slot,

wherein the transverse slot has opposing sides that each extend to opposing ends of the transverse slot, wherein the transverse slot extends along a path defined centrally between the opposing sides, and wherein an orthogonal projection of the path onto the plane defined by the opposing surface is arcuate.

73. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the step of selecting includes a step of selecting a bone plate in which the transverse slot has a length and a width, and wherein the length is about twice the width.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the step of attaching the bone plate to at least one bone includes a step of attaching the bone plate to a distal portion of a radius bone.